

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
FOURTH SERIES

VOL. XVIII, No. 6, pp. 217, 218, plate 24

APRIL 5, 1929

VI
**A NEW SPECIES OF LAND SNAIL FROM
KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

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***Helminthoglypta berryi* Hanna, new species**

Plate 24, figures 7, 8, 9

Shell of medium size, globose, composed of $5\frac{1}{2}$ well-rounded whorls; suture deep; umbilicus completely closed in the holotype, almost closed in the paratype; white or pale brown, bandless (in all specimens seen); upper portion of whorls sculptured with irregular growth ridges, almost ribs; lower portion of body whorl with a series of malleations, becoming pits in some cases; these pits roughly arranged in spiral order and almost obliterate the growth lines near the margin of the shell; the line of demarcation between the series of growth ridges above and the malleations below is very sharp and is approximately in the position of the color band as usually developed in this genus; aperture large and capacious; outer lip moderately reflected; terminations of peristome connected by a wash of callus over the body whorl. Diameter (holotype) 22.5 mm., height 21 mm.; diameter (paratype 1493) 23 mm., height 21 mm.

Holotype: No. 1492; *paratypes*: Nos. 1493, 1494, Mus. Calif. Acad. Sci., collected by G. D. Hanna eight miles northeast of Bakersfield, Kern County, California.

The first known specimens of this remarkable species were found in 1926 in the S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 32, T. 27 S., R. 29 E., M. D. M., about two miles north of Poso Creek and five miles east of the mouth of Granite Creek. These were somewhat imperfect and seemed so unusual in character and habitat that better material was awaited for description. This was found in 1927, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles southeast of the top of Round Mountain, Sec. 30, T. 28 S., R. 29 E., M. D. M., about three-fourths mile north of Kern River and four miles east of Oil City; this is the type locality. Specimens were also found further east on Sec. 34, T. 28 S., R. 29 E., M. D. M., and fragments were seen scattered in other places. It is evident that the species is fairly widely distributed in this district.

All of the shells found were dead,¹ but the one made the holotype has the epidermis and the pale brown color preserved. All were found on the slopes of dry, barren, ashy hills, usually, but not always, on northern slopes. No rock outcrops occur near where the shells were found, but invariably they were in torn up earth where cattle had trampled during wet weather. This peculiar habitat, with the pale color and absence of a band, leads to the supposition that the animal is a burrowing form. After having collected snails rather extensively in the forests and among the rocks of California, I was most astonished to find this one on soft, powdery, ashy hills.

The shape is suggestive of the shell found near Monterey called *californiensis*, but in other characters there is little resemblance.

The species is named for Dr. S. Stillman Berry in recognition of his extensive studies of west American land shells.

¹ Since this was written Dr. Berry has collected living specimens of what appears to be the same species in the Kern River oil field and the characters as outlined are confirmed in most respects; the living shell seems thinner than the dead ones upon which the description was based. The habitat is definitely proved not always to be the ashy hills as at first supposed.